

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: AORG, UNWFC

SUBJ: PREPCOM II--DISCUSSION OF ASSESSMENT, JUNE 6 AND 7

1. SUMMARY: ALL COUNTRIES COMPLIMENTED SECRETARIAT ON QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT, GIVEN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR PREPARATION. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAMMERED AWAY AT LACK OF ATTENTION IN REPORT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS, AND MADE CLEAR THEIR ANTI-PATHY TOWARD INTERNATIONAL STOCKPILING COMMITMENTS. LDCS CONCENTRATED ATTENTION ON GREAT NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. DCS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR FURTHER WORK BEFORE THIRD PREPCOM TO MAKE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS MORE MEANINGFUL. ALL DCS STRESSED LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO FOOD PROBLEM RESTS WITH INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LDCS AND IMPORTANT ROLE LDC POLICIES WOULD HAVE TO PLAY, IN ADDITION TO EXTERNAL AID, IN ACHIEVING THIS.

2. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONCENTRATED ON SPECIFIC WAYS TO IMPROVE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT AND HOW IT MIGHT BE USEFULLY EXPANDED FOR THIRD PREPCOM. MOST STRESSED NEED FOR UPDATING OF INFORMATION, DISAGGREGATION OF ANALYSIS

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TO DETERMINE RELATIVE DIFFERENCES IN LDC SITUATIONS, AND

ALTERNATIVE ASSUMPTIONS IN DEVELOPING THE VARIOUS PROJECTIONS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT. OTHER POINTS MADE BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS INCLUDED EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM, THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE FERTILIZER SUPPLIES AND THE NECESSITY OF PRICE INCENTIVES TO CALL FORTH ADEQUATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH, MEASURES TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDCS, CONTINUED FOOD AID AND A PRUDENT LEVEL OF WORLD FOOD STOCKS WAS ALSO EXPRESSED.

3. U.S. DELEGATION POINTED OUT RECENT GRAIN PRICE DECLINES MADE UPDATING ESSENTIAL AND URGED THAT ANALYSIS OF GRAIN DEFICIT AND ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPACT BE MADE ON REGIONAL OR COUNTRY BASIS INsofar AS POSSIBLE, ALSO WELCOMED PROPOSAL OF SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE FORECASTS BASED ON ALTERNATE ASSUMPTIONS TO THOSE USED FOR THIS REPORT. DELEGATION COMPLIMENTED SECRETARIAT ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF NUTRITION IN THE REPORT. ALSO STRESSED OBVIOUS NEED TO INCREASE LDC PRODUCTION BUT URGED CAUTION IN INTERPRETING THIS AS JUSTIFYING EACH ONE IN SEEKING SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

4. EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMENTS WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY IDEOLOGICAL, COMPLAINING THAT ASSESSMENT FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR POOR PRODUCTION AND CONSEQUENT HUNGER, NAMELY INEQUITY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES IN LDCS AND CONTINUED INFLUENCE COLONIALISM AND CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION. EES STRESSED NEED FOR LAND REFORM, COOPERATIVE PRODUCTION AND OTHER STRUCTURAL CHANGES. SOVIETS AVOIDED DISCUSSION SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, EXTOLLED EFFICIENCY AND DESIRABILITY STATE FARMING SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. ALL STRESSED THAT STOCKS WERE EXCLUSIVELY MATTER OF NATIONAL CONCERN. GENERAL SUPPORT WAS INDICATED FOR LDC POSITION ON TRADE, BUT ONLY FULLY SUBSTANTIVE PRESENTATION AMONG EES WAS MADE BY ROMANIA WHICH LABELED ITSELF LDC AND CALLED FOR INCREASED GRANT ASSISTANCE, LOWERED TRADE BARRIERS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

5. LDCS GENERALLY ADDRESSED SAME THESES, APPARENTLY COORDINATED IN GROUP OF 77 MEETINGS--WITH ALGERIAN, EGYPTIAN AND INDIAN DELEGATIONS TAKING LEADERSHIP ON CONFERENCE FLOOR. ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LDCS STRESSED AT LENGTH NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND CAME DOWN PARTICULARLY HARD ON FERTILIZER SHORTFALL. EACH DRAMATIZED ITS NEED FOR TRANSFER OF RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. ONLY SIERRA LEONE, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN SUB-GROUP, ACKNOWLEDGED SOME PAST MISAPPLICATION OF RESOURCES AND ALSO OUTLINED MORE CONCRETELY THAN OTHER LDC SPOKESMEN HOW ADDITIONAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS MIGHT BE UTILIZED.

6. OTHER CONSISTENT ELEMENTS OF LDC LINE WERE:

- A) NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO REMOVE TRADE BARRIERS FOR LDCS AND STABILIZE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT PRICES;
- B) LONGER-TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOOD AID; AND
- C) ACTION TO ENHANCE WORLD FOOD SECURITY THROUGH EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND BETTER INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION AND STOCKS AND THROUGH STOCKPILING ARRANGEMENTS.

7. SEVERAL LDCS, NOTABLY PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH, WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO COUNTER REFERENCES BY OTHERS TO RESPONSIBILITY OF OIL EXPORTERS FOR INCREASED FOOD COSTS, ASSERTING THIS SHOULD NOT DIVERT ATTENTION FROM NEED FOR FOOD PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMPROVING PER CAPITA FOOD PRODUCTION AND REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY LDC LEADERS WITH DISSENT BY PERU) BUT WAS NOT STRESSED. DALE

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